(a) whether Transport Ministers of all States attended a meeting in New Delhi in the month of September , 2007 to discuss ways to ensure better inter-State connectivity;

(b) if so, what were the main proposals discussed;

(c) whether any final decision in implementing these agreements were also discussed; and

(d) to what extent all the State Governments have agreed to implement the suggestions taken in the meeting for better road connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Vizhinjam Port Project

*15. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of the proposal for Vizhinjam Port Project in Trivandrum; and

(b) by when the work on this project is expected to start and by when its commercial operation is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Vizhinjam Port is a Non-Major Port. Non-Major Ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments. The responsibility for development of Vizhinjam Port, therefore, vests in the Government of Kerala.

New licencing policy for telecom operators

*16. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new policy with regard to the issuing of new licences to telecom operators and for the sale of Spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when the same is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to grant new Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences as per the existing policy. Selling/auction of 2G spectrum is not envisaged under telecom access services licences.

Waiver of bills of Faulty telephones by BSNL

*17. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL consumers have to pay their telephone bills despite their telephone connections remaining out of order for months together;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of provisions/guidelines/orders in this regard; and

(d) whether Government would consider to waive off dues of telephone bills in cases where BSNL connections remain out of order for more than 15 days at a stretch?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. Rent rebate is normally given by BSNL in the same or subsequent bills for the faults pending for more than three days.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Rent rebate is admissible as under:

Sl.No.	Period of continuous faults during a month	Rent rebate
1.	Up to 3 days	Nil
2.	4 to 7 days	7 days
3.	8 to 15 days	15 days
4.	More than 15 days	One month

(d) BSNL is allowing one month rent rebate for faults exceeding 15 days.

Four-laning of NH-31A

*18. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to make NH-31A into a four lane highway;

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned for the project;

(c) the portion of the NH likely to be four laned during the year 2007-08; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Government have approved implementation of two laning with paved shoulders from Sevoke to Ranipul Section of NH-31A under modified Phase 'A' of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE) on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) (Annuity) basis. The work for implementation has been entrusted to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). NHAI is preparing bid document on BOT (Annuity) format for inviting bids and the investment decision will be made by the Government on case by case basis, after completing bidding process.

Long-term vision of DAE

*19. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether long-term vision of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) envisage production of 20,000 MW power from nuclear source in the year 2020;